A Warning for England/

Conteyning the horrible practiſes of the Kyng of Spayn / in the Kyngdom of Naples / and the miſeries wherunto that noble Realme is brought. Wherby all Engliſche men may vnderſtand the plage that ſhall light apon them yf the Kynge of Spayn / obteyne the Dominion in England.

Beware of had I wiſt.

BEhold Good reader in this horrible destruction of the Kyngdom of Naples/wrought by the kynge of Spaine and his Spaniardes / the present misery that hangeth this day/ ouer the noble realme of England. Yf it be trew that the Poet sayth/(Happy is the man that can beware by another mans mischef) then must they be twise vnhappie/who being admonished / folow the flye to the fyer / coueting ther own destruction. A man warned/is double armed/is a saying nat more comon then trew: and because thys daunger of England toucheth not any one only sort of people therin/but all/of al sortes/of what estate or religion soeuer they be / therfore is it most necessary that all Englishe men haue Vnderstandinge of it. And so muche more is it necessary presently / because the imminent and present daunger/can not without gods present miraculose help/ be avoydid/ and turned away from all/ onles all ioyen not only in prayer/but also in polici/ and power together for thauoyding ther of/ foreseing by all meanes possible the perelose dominion of the Spanyards. And in thys foresight of our sastie/ the cheef thyng to be considerid/and taken heed of in the Spanishe kynge and hys freends / is ther fayer promessis / sugerid talk / and colorid freendshyp. Yf ye suffer words/ to bewitche your eares/ then not your skyns alone/ but also your hartes shal smart therfore/ all your childern / and childers childern herafter / shall curse the time that euer ther fathers begat them. Therfore wyen the Spaniards schall tempt yow with ther promesis/ stop not one eare alone but both. Gyue noe eare to any condicio/When the serpēt hath once entrid with his hed/ he will soon convey in/the rest of hys body. One vnadui sid grant / may gyue your enemies a knif/to cut your ovne throtes/ and disherit your childer for euer / and bring England vnwares to a most shameful and perpetuall captiuitie. But whē they shall feare lest ther wordes/ can not worke the som of ther will/ thēn will they maake trapps with rewards / and largitions. With great guiftes / and yearly stipends: and as many as they

schall thyinke moste lyke / and willinge to play the parte of Judas/them will they corrupt and tie to treason with money/ and wil not care one button / though asterward Judas hange hym self for sorw/so they baue once ther purpose. Wo be to that man who being blyndid with gayn as Judas was/betrayeth his cuntrey to straũgers for money. Yt is not a wise mãs parte to say: Had I wist:or I wold litell haue thought/the matter wold haue cum to thys passe. When thyngs can not be amendid it is to late to repent. Fõd beggerly asterwit/is the lorde forewits fool. Yf the nobilitie of England / and suche as be in authoritie wil be rulid by wisdom/they must not be hastie in folowing and satisfieng the lustes of Princes. but aboue al things they must take heede to the practises of the bushops and clergy for they may euidently see/ that the clargy careth not what becometh of the realme/so they may reigne agayn/and haue the neks of the nobilitie tyed vnder ther gyrdell. Hurt foloweth hast of necessite/whẽ god is not the guyde. but god can not be guyde to suche as be poysened either with lucre or pleasure/and therfore/haue sure to look to the sastye of ther cũtrey. Yt is a world to see how most men stand amazid/beholding ther own mischef. The Deuell semeth yet to them an angell of light:but when he shall appeare in his own lyknes/ they whiche now be most in loue with the prelats vnd Spaniards/ shal curse the tyme that euer they knew them. A slonge as the dayes of ioy last /man myndeth not mourninge. The bayt is pleasant/till the hooke hath taken hold or the snare fall. Whose eyes be occupied with the gaze of pleasure or gayne / they be wrappid in daunger before they see the own perell. Blynde ioy/is the mother of seing woe. as thou mayst heraster see practisid by the kynge of Spayne/in the kyndome of Naples / set forth to that intent before thyn eyes that thow mayst help the best thow canst by publishynge the same to other/ to defend thy self/thy wif thy childern and thy cuntrey.

Beware of had I wist.

The kyngdom of Naples is large and wyde/lyeng in the
eaſt parte of Italy And had in it ten Princes/myē chef officers.
nyneteen Dueks/one and twenty Marqueſis/thre and thurtie
Earles beſides/other barons and lords whoſe certayne nomber
cañ not well be gotten. This kingdom cam in to the hands of
the Spanyards by a pretenſid titell of mariage. Longe time it
was defended from the Emperour by Frances the french kynge
thys mans father. During whiche tyme/the peple retayned
ther accuſtomed franchefis and liberties/ And Naples/ for the
bewtie of the cuntrey/and plenti of al thinge/was callid the Pa-
radiſe of Italy. And when the frenche kynge was taken priſo-
ner at Pania / one condition of his deliuery was that he ſhould
no longer aid with hys poer the kyngdom of Naples. and ſo
the kynge of Spayne/challēdging hys titel by mariadge/took a-
pō hym the defenſe of the kyngdō/and thē begā hys practiſes as
foloweth. At the furſt coming of the Spanyards into the kyngd
om of Naples they ſlowed in ther promeſſes/and offers of all ky
nd of frenſhip/aſwell for defenſe of the cūtrey/kyngdom/ and pee
ce/ aſſo preſeruation of ther old freedom and liberties/ with
an vnfayned loue in outward apparance/ to ther ſtate and com-
mon welth. Suche was the countenance of the Spany-
ards/vntil they / vnder this clooke of amitie and frenſhip/ crept
ſo in credit with the peple/ that the chef of them weer ſufferid to
be ſettellid in certayn chef caſtells / fortreſſes and holds/ about
both the cite/ and cuntrey: At this whyle the nobilitie and gen-
tlemen of Naples were in eſtimation/ and had the miniſtra-
tion of iuſtice in ther own hands/ and few or non of the chefeſt
offices in the common welth were geuen away from them. So
that al thoughe they receyuid the Kyng of Spayne for ther
Kyng / yet was ther littel or nothinge miniſhed of ther welth/
freedom / iuſtice/ and liberties For mayntenance wherof/ and
declaration alſo that the Spaniſhe kinge ment non otherwiſe
then he outwardly pretendid / he apoynted the Prince of Sa-
lerna/ther own cuntrey man/to be ther leaueteanant. Wherwith
the pepel in the begynning/ contentid themſelues very well/ and

were in muche peace and quietnes. But the kynge of Spayne purposing in conclusion that misery to the cuntrey which he hath now brought to passe / began to seek them sumwhat nigher: and for compassing of hys wicked intent / sent thyder one Don Pietro a Spaniard / and ioyned hym with the Prince of Salerna as fellow leautenand in commission. This Spaniard purposinge spedyly to bringe the kynges former speches to passe / diuisid means how he might remeue the Prince from bearinge rule / and this thing he attemptid by pickyng quarrells dayly against the Prince / aswell rersing false reports against hym amongst the peple / as contriuing wiked and vntrew accusations against hym to the kyng / to hys vtter discredit / and extreme perell. Wherapon the Prince / desierose of quietnes / withdrew hym self into one of hys castells / leauuing the whole gouernment to this Spaniard / Wherwith the kyng of Spayne semed so well contentid / that he gaue not only ready eare to the Spanyards false reportes against the Prince / without searching further the matter / but also incoradgid hym to goe forward in hys doings as he had begon / howbeit as yet the commission was not alterid / and therfor / though the Prince of Salerna did nothinge / yet remayned his authorite in the commission iornely with the Spanyard. wherwith the Spanyard beinge altogether discontentid / sought al means possible how to kyll the Prince. And in this mynd he deuisid to accuse the Prince of treason / wherunto the Prince refusid not to offer his answer. But as the Prince cam from his castell towards hys sayd answer to be made accordingly / The Spaniard apoyntid one to hide him self priuily in the mountayns by the way with a gunn to kyll the Prince when he shoud pass / but the fellow appoyntid to doe the murther / missid the Princes body / and strak hym only in the legge. Wherby the Prince perceauinge the present danger of death hanging euery way ouer hys hed / fled to Venyce. Then the Spanyard entrid the Princes castell / and toke hys wif prisoner / and wold suffer none to cum at her but hym self aloue / and a keper by him

apoyntid. Vnhappy is that honest woman that cometh to the keping of a Spaniard. Ymmediatly he proclamed the Prince traytor. And when the Prince sought redresse of these intollerable iniuries/ at the spanishe kyngs hands/ he did not only leaue the offendars vnpunished. But also discharged al the inborn subiects of the realme aswel gentelmen as other/ from bearing any kynde of rule through out the whole Kyngdom / geuing the whole trust and charge therof to the only Spanyards. Vnder whom the gentelmen and other common peple at thys day lyue in muche worse condicion/ then doe the Christians vnder the Turks/ as all meñ right well know / who haue trauaylid both cũtreys. All these things the kyng of Spayn brought to passwith in xv. yeres aster his furst entry into the kyngdom of Naples and frõ that time hetherto/ the Spaniards haue been only lordes and maysters ouer all/ bydding and forbidding what thẽ lusteth. Nomã cã keepe hys own house/ whẽ it once lyketh thẽ. Noe writings of lands or tytell of inhaeritance cañ serue agaynst ther fearfull force/ and lawles tyrannie. The gentelmen of the cuntrey be many of them put to death without any manor of cause/ other then for complayninge apon ther own misery / amongest whom the Popes brother that now is/ was one/ and/ the rest of hys stok was banished. So that of the treuth of al these things the pope himself cañ be a witnes. Suche as remayne vnbanished/ wher as they were wont to be most fyne/ braue/ and gorgeose in all Italy/ they be now brought so law/ with payng importable Taxes/ Tolles/ and paymentz that with the litel porcion remayninge of ther reuenew/ they be scarsly hable to beare out the countenance of gentellmen. Aster the Spaniards had thus obteyned the over hand/ commandment was sent out by the kynge of Spayne / that no Marchant/ nor artificer should keepe any kynde of armor or weapon in hys house/ no/ nat so muche as a sword or a dagger. The gentellmen only be lycensid for ther swords and targats/ other kynd either of harnes or weapon they may keepe none. Other inconueniences wherwith the peple ther be sondri ways greued be diuerse/ aswell by dayly puneishments

tormentes and death without any kynd of cause / as by impor-
table tares/ tributs and loans / wherwith al men be tared sa-
uing the only Spanyards. Who be fre to say and do
what them lust without chek/to bey/and sell without tar or tri-
buts/to robbe and spoyle without punieshement. Yf al the pay-
ments that all the kynges whiche reigned before in Naples were
put together / they ar nat comparable to the extraordinary tares
which the kyng of Spayne hath exacted of them. for euery fourth
or fyst yere they pay somtyme two hundreth thousand ponnd.
and/sumtyme fower and somtyme a million of gold. besids al
other ordinary payments / whiche be otherwise so great and ha-
ue brought the peple to suche powertie that great nombres of
them be forced to forsake ther cuntrey and fall / som to robbing
and som to begginge. The vnrighteousnes ther vsid by the kyng
of Spayn and hys ministers is vnspeakable. All means possible
that can be diuisid to spoyl the poor subiects of the realme of ther
goodes/lands/ and lauful inheritance/is ther practisid/ and put
in execution. and amongest many other thys is one All men
callid and requirid by what titell they hold ther lands / and al
suche as haue nothinge presently to shew be thrust out/ though
they be habell to declare ther possession of a C. or CC. yo-
res continuance. Another of ther practises is to call all such
as bythem selues or by ther auncestours haue borne any kynde of
office in the common welth/to account: and not withstanding
they haue made ther account many yers before and receaued the
quietus est/yet if any kynd of fauor shal appeare to be shewd/ o-
ells the quiettance be lost by reason of tyme/ they be condemned
to make payment agayn of euery penny: These two Spa-
nishe practises alone were enoghe to destroy a whole cuntrey.
But besids these / The Spanishe kynge hath his special tax
of all things that is eaten / dronken / worn or vsid in the cun-
trey/ yea for euery Christening and mariadge he hath summes
as herafter may apeare.

Barons

Because the Coyne of Naples is strange to Englishe men therfor I haue set forth/as nighe as may be/the trew sterlinge valewe of ther sondry sorts of coynes and haue declarid the Spanishe tolles taxes/and accises accordingly.

They haue lytell peces of money named Caualluchi.

wher of.v maake	j. turnese	q̃ꝫ.q.sterlinge.	
ij.turneses make	j. grane	ob.q̃ꝫ.sterlinge.	
x.graines make	j.Carline	vij.d.ob.	sterlinge.
x.Carlines make	j.ducat	vj.s. iij.d.	sterlinge.
xj.Carlines make	j. crown	vj.s.x.d.ob.	sterlinge.

The ordinary customes / and exactions increasid within this ten yeres in the kyngdom of Naples sence the Kynge of Spayne hath born̄ rule ther/and hath now placed the lyke exactions also in Millan/and will no dowt practise them in England/if the crown̄ be grantid hym.

Buchers pay.	ffor every oxe alyue	xv.d.	ster.
	ffor every cow alyue	xv. d.	ster.
	ffor every steer alyue	x.d.ob. q̃ꝫ.	ster.
	ffor every kyd and lambe alyve	iij.d.ob q̃ꝫ.	ster.
	And aster it is kyllid ffor euery ix. powud weyght on with another	q̃ꝫ. q.	ster.
	ffor euery ix.lb.weight of veale	ob.q̃ꝫ.	ster.
Pulters pay.	ffor every hen	ob. q̃ꝫ.	ster.
	ffor every capon	iij.d.	ster.
	ffor every ioo.byrds/and foule	iij. d.ob q̃ꝫ.	ster
	ffor euery hundreh of eggs	x.	eggs.

The farmar of ye buchery and pultry of ye citie

A ... of Na-

Cookes and vittelers pay. ffor every tun of wyne iij. ducats. sterlinge.
ffor yerly obedience of euery one v. duc. sterlinge.

Shomakers pay. ffor every great hyde they occupie j. duc. sterlinge.
ffor every steers hyde they occupie iij. s. j. d. ob. ster.
ffor euery calues skin they occupie xv. d. sterlinge.
ffor yerly obedience euery one j. frenche crowne.

Silke makers pay. ffor euery bagg of sylk wormes xv. d. sterlinge.
ffor yearly obedience euery one v. frenche crownes.

Poticaris and Grossers. ffor euery bagge of spice at the vnshipping xv. d. ſt
ffor euery pound weight of the same at the custom house ob. q̄. sterlinge.

Mariners pay. ffor euery shyp laden they bring in to the hauen vi. s. iij. d. sterlinge
ffor euery litell vessell iij. d. ob. q̄. sterlinge.

marchāts pay. ffor every pece of cloth at the vnshipping xv. d. sterlinge.
ffor euery pound of euery pak of marchandise what soeuer j. d. ob. sterlinge.

Horses. ffor euery day that a horse is let to hyer ob. q̄. s. when a man selleth a horse he payth for euery crowne that he receaueth j. d. ob. sterlinge.

Chambers He that letteth a chamber payeth for euery moneth xv. d. sterlinge.

Chymneys pay. ffor euery one in the house yerly vj. s. iij. d.

Whores pay. Euery common whore yerly iij s. j. d. ob.

Frutereres pay. ffor euery moneth vij. d. ob. sterlin.

Christenidge of childern. Euery child Christenid doth pay vij. d. ob. ster.

Mariadges. Euery one that is maried payeth iij.d.ob.q̄. sterlinge.

Pauing. ffor maynenance of the pauing of the citie euery house payeth yerly vij.d. ob.sterlin.

Fewell payth. ffor euery horse lode of wood and cole j.d.ob. sterlinge.

Bakers pay. ffor euery C.lib.weigth of meale vij. d.ob.ster.

ffor yerly standinge in the market which he is bownd to vj. s. iij. d.

ffor euery C.lib. of granes of bread vij.d/ob.sterl.

Ropemakers pay: ffor euery ix. foote of rope they sel q̄.q.sterlin.

Water berers. pay yerly iij.s.i.d.ob.sterlinge.

Fischermē pay. ffor euery pound of fishe they taak q̄.q.ster.

Cariadge payeth. ffor euery fardell that is caried in or out Naples/ being more then the burden of the arme ob. q̄.sterlinge.

Cattell. Euery hed of great cattell payth iij.canalluchi. and euery hed of small payth ij. wiche amounted the last yere in ij. Shyers Apulia and Calabria to fower hundreth thousand frenche crownes ster.

A taxe this yere. Ther is a taxe ther/this yere of six hundeth thowsand french crowns sterlinge.

Spyes. Ther be many spyalls who harken if any man grudge or mislyke the gouernmēt of the Spaniards and they haue a pece euery month iiij. french crowns. sterlinge

These

These and suche lyke taxes/tolles /accises and yerly payments be entrid also withe the Spanish kyngs dominion into the duke dom of Milan. Wher ther is a new taxe presently leuied of every man woman and childe to pay one ducat / and of this taxe the child that is but one dayes old/is not free. Euery chymney payth a ducat and for euery quantitie of a kylderkyn of wyue (whiche is ther common drink) v.s. of ther money and for euery quantitie of iiij. bushells of all keynd of corn v.s. of ther money / and besids all this/they must deliuer viij. thousand oxen to tye Spnisye kynge to serue his Warres presently. And what vnreasonable taxes/thesame kynge hath set and leuied apon Flannders and the law cuntreys/besids that it is set forth in print otherwise/the English men that haue trauelyd ther/cā beare witnes/and therfor is not so needful to be declarid. But who hath more need to looke to these things then the queen her self? may she think/that the Emperour will put all his kyngdomes and Dominions in to the hāds of one/ of whō his sone can haue no issew? who seeth not that if he be once crowned and haue his will in Englād/ he wil rather dispatche her and take a yōger/of whome he may haue childern/then suffer any man or woman that is not of his house and kindred to reigne after him? Who hath not herd/that when it was knowen the queene was not with chyld/the Emperour should practise to vndoe the mariadge between hys sone kynge Philip and the queen (whiche in deed is no mariadge but altogether vnlawful) / and to haue his sayd sone marry the kyng of Portūgalls daughter / with whō he was before rigthly cōtractid? Who can not thynk but the Italians haue herd sumwhat/ seynge they haue layd wagers that if the kyng of Spayne obteyned not the crown/ he wold not retorn agayn in to England when he should cum into Flannders? Ys it not a spyte to Englishe men great enoghe that England is callid a new Spayne? were it not more meet that Spayne should be callid a new Englād? Eyes see wel enough theughe they speak not/ so that the quest can lak no information when traytors shalbe examenid. Mens cars also will this next

parlament

parlament trye out traytours/ by markynge who talketh for hys cuntrey/ and who kepeth silence. Yf one traytor be hable to destroy a whole realme/ how can England be safe/ wher ther be so many? Yf God will not suffer treasen to scape vnpunished/ how can those traytours think either them selues/ or the continuance of ther house suer/ who be openly knowen to al the world by ther daily doinges/ to seek the distruction of ther cuntrey. Shal a man thynk ther day of punishement far of/ when ther be ap of syn can grow no greater?

And wheras the preachers of England/ in these days abuse the pulpets/ to deceaue the peple with vanities/ and lyes: and haue of late/ amongest other vntreuthes attempted to persuade/ the popes late bulle (set forth in print for the excommunication of all manor suche parsons/ without exception/ as keepe any of the churche or abbey lands)/ is not ment for England: I pray the good reader/ to consider/ and way the matter substantially/ and thou shalt perceaue that the restitution of the abbey lands of England is the chef or rather the only cause therof. Whiche thing is easy to proue thus. The commandiment for restitution of abbey lands/ cometh not forth for any cuntrey wher abbey lands be not taken away/ (that is to say) for Italy/ Spayn/ Fraunce/ Scotland/ or any other place or cuntrey wher abbeys haue not been put doun/ and ther lands taken away/ for that were a thyng not needfull. And as vayn a matter weer it to set it forth for Germany/ or Denmark/ or any other place ar cuntrey wher the gospel of Christ is taught and receaued: for the pope knoweth well enoghe that ther his labor should be but spent in vayne/ for that he is not ignorant they will not obey hym, being persuadid by gods worde that he hath nothing to doe with them. Wherfor it remaineth that the sayd bull is cheefly set forth for restitution of the churche and abbey lands of Englād. Wher though they be take away/ yet is ther some hope of restitution/ wherunto the queen in her procedings/ and Feknam with his ballet of/ Caueat emptor-take heed I say/ and other prechars in ther sermons/ and the Cardinall in his dispensation

in latin

in latin set forth in the statuts of the last Parlament haue made a redy way.

Moreouer yt is playn / by the popes bull / that al / of al sortes stand presently / by vertew of the same bull / excommunicat, as well al suche / as haue any of the churche or abbey lands / as also al suche Princes / Bushops / noble men / iustices of the peace / and other in office / who haue nott / and doe not / forth with put the same bull in execution. And what is the cause / that the Bushops be bold to execute the popes lawes apon sum of the clargy who haue been burned in England / for refusing to obey the same? and the same Bushops dare not / as yet / attempt the lyke punischement / of lyke sort dew to all suche as (after the popes bull set forth) refuse to restore the churche and abbey lands / which ought to be restorid by force of the same lawes? None other cause treuly but that tyme present serueth not the bushoes so wel for the one / as for the other / No man is so ignorant but he knoweth right well / the desier of the Bushops is to haue abbey lands restorid / and ther only stay is because tyme serueth them not. What obseruers of tyme they be / ye may learne as well by the lord chancelars recãtation at paules crosse before the kynge and the Cardinal in aduent last / as by all ther other practises. Then if they tary only for a day / what other curtesy shall the nobilitie / the gentellmen / and other / look for at ther hands / then either to restore againe ther abbey lands / when tyme shall serue accordinge to the tenor of the Popes bull: or els for refusing to obey the same / suffer deth with the rest / who euer for lyke disobedience to the popes lawes / burned before ther faces? The fagots be already praeparid / in that they al stand al redy / by the Popes sentence / excommunicat and accursid / Nothinge wanteth but a day to kyndell the fier. Therfore once agayn / I say /

Beware of had I wist.

An. D. 1555.